

THE EXCITER

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

March 7th

VFO DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

by Mr. Ray Garner

Mr. Ray Garner W5HHE, of Southwest Research will present a talk on design and construction of VFO's for amateur use. Mr. Garner's discussion will include the importance of proper tuned circuit Q, methods of choosing the proper tube, the selection of correct operation voltages, and the relative merits of the Hartley, Colpits, and Lampkin oscillators.

Ray has done some very interesting work with VFO's and is highly qualified to give us an interesting talk. He has been a licensed amateur since 1938, and is currently employed as a research physicist at Southwest Research Institute.

March 21

TALK BY WEST GULF DIRECTOR

Grady A. Payne, W5ETA director of West Gulf Division of the ARRL will make a special trip over from Houston to be our guest speaker for the March 21st meeting. Grady will talk to us about the forthcoming ARRL board of directors meeting in May about ARRL matters in general and about the West Gulf Division in particular. Also, he said he will answer any questions, or talk on any subject that anyone would like to discuss.

This is a very special meeting for the SARC, because it is not too often that we are honored by a visit of a Division Director. Grady is a very colorful speaker, so this promises to be one of the top programs of the year for the club.

Our first meeting in February was very interesting and timely to the extent that we had as our guest speakers Dec. Best, W5QKF, the South Texas Emergency Coordinator, and Roy Eggleston, W5QEM, the South Texas SCM. They gave us a good rundown on RACES, how it affects us in general and what we can do about it individually and collectively. We also had a distinguished visitor, Grady Payne the ARRL West Gulf Director, who warned us of his coming visit at which time he is going to unload both barrels. We are looking forward to hearing it.

We dropped in on the City Civil Defense set-up the other day and talked to G. W. Fullbright, A. H. Bonnet, and J. C. Nickens to see how things were going. They are really moving over there. They have completely re-wired the communications room to provide adequate power for any emergency, have a gasoline driven generator, a fixed station and several mobiles on 6 meters and also a fixed station and a large number of mobiles on 10 meters.

VHF ACTIVITIES

It was certainly gratifying to see some new VHF faces at our last meeting. These men who attended the club represents a cross section of our local activities. However, they wondered if there weren't more members interested. Yes, there are. If those who wrote to me will come to our next meeting, your questions will be answered as you see your colleagues in person.

So, let's get acquainted—come on up to the meeting.

KN5OXU, KN5OPT, KN5PDH, KN5PDI were really creating a racket on about 145.2 MC recently. This

could be the beginning of a real shot in the arm for the 2 meter band. Tune in for first hand dope—should be real fine.

WILLARD W5FND

MOBILE

The cold and wet weather has really played hob with mobile activity here of late, but more interest is being gathered with the hope of good weather coming up. The boys on six meters seem to have been the most active here lately. Some of those heard were W5FQA, W5EXZ, K5LPJ, K5HVC and K5HYF.

Heard a new one on 75 meters "Joe" working around south Texas in the evening.

George W5VPQ has a car loaded with rigs, though we can't elaborate on this. Hope he manages to keep them up along with his studies at college.

Theo W5OZQ is about ready with his new mobile set up, using a Morrow converter into a broadcast band arc 5 receiver, and using a command transmitter.

Bob Turnage is making a little progress in his installation in the new Buick.

GENE W5EJT

MARS

Texas No. 2 1815-1915 Friday.

Texas No. 6 UHF 6 0800-0900 Sunday.

During the past month three new

members joined the Air Force VHF Net No. 6. George A. Ferguson AAF5 HVM, Gerald Pugh AF5 RCK, and Carl Zettner AF5 HFG. The Air Force Mars program has been under 14th AF in Georgia; however as of 1 March 1958 the program in this area will transfer to 10th Air Force in Michigan. It is requested that all correspondence and communication with 14th AF in Georgia be terminated immediately and no correspondence be initiated to 10th Air Force prior to 15 March and then only through proper channels.

Brother William Hamm AAF5 FMG of St. Mary's University has been monitoring the "Explorer" during its passes over this portion of the orbit. A very informative report was given the VHF Net on the Explorer and was later taped and presented to the Central Technical Net, Texas and Oklahoma sections.

The operation "Leap Frog" went off according to schedule on 15 February starting at 2100. AF5 LUU in San Antonio acted as the link between Corpus Christi and Austin, Texas. Early reports indicated that several messages were carried but the distance involved has not been substantiated.

RAY AF5 EDZ

SIDE BAND

The printer forgot the necessity of a BFO last month and this section didn't make contact . . . anyway . . . HI from the one-half bunch. News and dope on 75 meters will be about

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all in this column from my personal contact but if anyone should like to air their Side Band worth, let er fly.

How many of you who have gone the \$300 plus receiver route are going to trade for the Drake? Have heard rumors that some Yankee manufacturers will be hurt by this receiver.

I wonder when Heath Company will come out with SSB complete. I have heard they have a Sputnik kit patterned after the U.S. version, it's guaranteed to misfire. See you soon in the land of the vanishing heterodyne.

RED K5GUH

DX

As this is written the first half of the CW ARRL DX "Rat Race" has just come to an end. The ears are still ringing from the rock crushing sigs from W6 right on top of an S3 rare one. But it was great fun and really showed what the ole rig wouldn't do. Maybe the second half will be easier. Heard W5UX, HHE, HHO, LGG, OEN, and IAH among the local pack in there knocking them off. There were probably others but the band was so full of DX of all varieties from ordinary to rare—and each with plenty of chasers—that it was hard to tell. Understand that FZA had antenna troubles. Some of the better ones pursued on 40 were OQ5, FC, KC4, ZK1, EA8, and on 20 were HSI, VS2, UO5, UF6, SV0, UC2, IS1, OH, OD5 and 10 produced BV1, CT3, SV, 3A2, VQ2 VK9, FF8 and many others.

Hope to see more locals in the next round.

WAZ certificates are now being issued wholesale, and many to W5's, thanks to cards from JT1AA in previously almost untouchable Zone 23. He frequents 14060 or 090 around 0700 and puts in a good signal at about 25 per. CU on low end.

DERWIN, W5LUU

GUTTER DOPE . . .

We heard the other day that KN5OPS had tried to use a rig that K5GUH fixed up for her, and it all went up in smoke during her first contact.

Bobby Jett has received his ticket also, KN5OXU. He can be heard at about 374KC.

We heard that E.C. Reich's mobile antenna is giving him trouble, but he expects to have it fixed real quick like.

Red K5GUH has enclosed his car port and made a garage out of it and is moving all of his radio equip out there. Cole W5DKF has the outside of his ham shack finished now and we hear that there are others considering doing something along these lines.

Gene W5EJT just put up a three element 20 meter beam about 35 feet high the other day.

SARC LADIES NEWS

The meeting Feb. 7th at the Gunter was enjoyed by one and all. The door prize was won by Violet Kilander, and thanks should go to Jo Hunt for

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W5DBN

not being there and thereby giving someone else a chance at winning it. Jo sure has been busy counting those fat steers.

A million thanks to Ella Loos, for the telephone books. I know everyone appreciated them.

Two more of our members have received their novice tickets since we went to press last. They are Mary

KN5PDI and Caroline KN5PDH.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the wives of the hams in this area to attend our meetings. They are held the same nights as the "Ham" meetings are, and also at the same place. The Gunter Hotel, on the first and third Friday nights of each month. See you all there.

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